

¡viva venezuela!

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Revolution Under Siege

Also inside: ■ After Chávez – the Empire Strikes Back
■ What's Really Been Going On in Venezuela?
■ Lobby Your MP to Oppose US Sanctions!

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**Venezuela
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Campaign**



After Chávez – the Empire Strikes Back



“One can only conclude that some in the US share the Venezuela opposition’s aim to oust the Maduro government ahead of his constitutional term. Perhaps that’s not surprising as Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world. But it should not be tolerated. Venezuelans have the right to choose their own government free from outside interference.”

The recent wave of violence by extremist elements of Venezuela’s right-wing opposition is the latest attempt to oust the elected government by anti-democratic means. Such plans have been in existence ever since President Chávez won in 1998, reaching their logical conclusion in the 2002 coup against him. Destabilisation attempts have intensified following President Chávez’s death – as the opposition believe that their time has come to regain office.

Just over one year ago, 13 Venezuelans – all due to opposition violence – were killed in cold blood after the opposition refused to accept the results of the first post-Chávez election.

Then, last autumn, the opposition engaged in widespread sabotage to stoke an economic crisis timed to coincide with the nationwide mayoral elections. The aim was to weaken Maduro’s support to justify the ousting of the government – as was done in Chile in the run up to the 1973 coup there.

Sadly for the opposition this failed, as Maduro won December’s elections with a nationwide 10 point lead. Nevertheless, just a few months later, extremists in the opposition unleashed the latest wave of violence.

Tragically, 42 Venezuelans have died following the explicit call for the undemocratic and unconstitutional ousting (La Salida) of Venezuela’s elected government. The principal causes are lethal opposition violence and the use of deliberately dangerous street barricades. In a wave of terror against the population,

government and public service buildings – from hospitals to universities to public broadcasters – have been attacked by extreme elements of the opposition. Street blockades have caused billions of dollars of damage to the Venezuelan economy.

Peace talks have taken place, involving broad sections of society, and have seen the violence diminish. But a minority are not participating in any dialogue and are calling for further street actions, seeking to create chaos in the hope this leads to the ousting of the government that they have never supported over the past 18 years. This minority within the opposition (which is itself a minority) are not without assistance – they receive regular verbal support from the US as well as millions of dollars.

One can only conclude that some in the US share the Venezuela opposition’s aim to oust the Maduro government ahead of his constitutional term. Perhaps that’s not surprising as Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world. But it should not be tolerated. Venezuelans have the right to choose their own government free from outside interference.

History suggests that sooner or later the opposition will again try to violate the constitution and to oust the elected government. Sanctions, greater US financial support and even actual intervention are already being requested by extremist elements of the opposition, whose leadership backed the 2002 coup.

International solidarity can help to defeat this latest anti-democratic attempt at ousting the legitimate Chavista government of Nicolas Maduro.

**This magazine is published by the
Venezuela Solidarity Campaign**

Contributors to this
issue were:

- Lee Brown
- Paul Dobson
- Francisco Dominguez
- Siân Errington
- Ewan Robertson
- Matt Willgress *and*
- Tim Young



**Venezuela
Solidarity
Campaign**



**Unite the Union GPM London Print Branch
Celebrate Venezuela - Unity is Strength**

John Ayling, Branch Chair
Tommy Murphy, Branch Secretary





The Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra returned to London's Southbank Centre in June, under the young conductor Christian Vásquez, a protégé of the internationally acclaimed El Sistema musical education programme.

The orchestra, made up of 14 to 19 year olds, is the sister orchestra of the celebrated Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra. It represents the next generation of musicians to emerge from El Sistema. Set up in 1975 as a free music education programme, it has benefited a quarter of a million youngsters and seen almost 200 orchestras formed. Under the governments of Hugo Chávez and Nicolas Maduro, it has been expanded to reach some of the most disadvantaged children.

President Nicolas Maduro has recently announced plans to further develop the programme by working with more schools and with public sector bodies.



Caracas Declared 'Territory Free From Homophobia'

To commemorate the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on May 17, the Municipal Council of Caracas declared the city as "Territory Free from Homophobia." The declaration formed part of a weekend of activities organised by the Council, which included a Pride march and cultural events aiming to eradicate homophobia.

Following the declaration, Councillor Yuset Brito explained that the Mayor of Caracas is to open an office for LGBT movements in the city. Councillor Armando Graterol added that the celebration of the day followed the teachings of former President Hugo Chávez, saying "we are all struggling for what should be equal rights, to have a much fairer and nobler society; we are following [Hugo] Chávez's legacy of humanism, of eliminating all discrimination."

Venezuela Extends Support to Palestine

"The Palestinian cause is the world's cause" explained President Nicolas Maduro on receiving Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas for a recent visit.

During his visit, Abbas visited the tomb of Hugo Chávez to pay his respects. "President Chávez is always in our hearts" stated Abbas, who awarded President Maduro and Chávez's family the 'Star of Palestine'.

In the economic sphere, two key agreements were signed: firstly to exempt taxes between the two nations, encouraging trade and

commerce; and secondly to form PetroPalestina, which will, in the words of Maduro, "firm up the supply of diesel from Venezuela to Palestine".

"Thank you, Venezuela," said Abbas, adding that the measure will "help break the blockade imposed on Gaza" and "help raise the spirits of the Palestinian people".



Finally, discussions were held on the creation of a Palestinian-Venezuelan centre of Operation Miracle – a Cuban/Venezuelan programme which uses laser surgery to restore, without cost, sight to people who can't afford private treatment.



Support and solidarity to the Bolivarian Revolution

London UNISON
Linda Perks, Regional Secretary



The NUT gives support and solidarity to the VSC and the people of Venezuela

West Midlands UNISON sends fraternal greetings to Venezuelan workers - No to US destabilisation!



Seven New Universities Created in 12 Months Under Maduro's Presidency

Since President Nicolas Maduro was elected last April, the Government has created seven university institutions, Venezuela's Minister for Education recently announced. This is more than were built in the entire ten years prior to the 1998 revolution.



President Maduro recently launched a National Consultation for Quality Education, to be rolled out over the next five months

The new public university institutions offer university level education free of cost to thousands of citizens in remote parts of the country. They join an increasingly dynamic public university system which includes the 36 new institutions created by the Chávez and Maduro-led governments.

The Minister also explained that in the last year, university enrolment has increased by 130,000, advancing from 2,503,000 to 2,629,312. By comparison, in 1998, before the revolution, only 700,000 students were enrolled in tertiary education.

He also explained that the social programme Mission Sucre, which offers university level night classes to citizens, has increased the number of those meeting university entry requirements to 380,000, as well as awarding 68,000 people professional qualifications this year, making a total of 302,000 professional graduates since its launch in 2003.

For students, the Government is currently extending its programme of scholarships, and



Mission Sucre has provided many people with the opportunity to study at a university level

plans to distribute 2 million tablets and 23,340 computers free to university students.

In recent months, sectors of the university population associated with the extreme right in Venezuelan politics have attempted to present themselves to the world as the spokespersons of the entire 2.62 million students in Venezuela in calling for the anti-democratic ousting of the President.

In response to this, the Minister explained that the vast majority of the student sector has greatly benefited from the revolution, and that such 'spokespersons' are not representative of the entire student population, which continues to be pro-government by a clear majority.

North East Yorkshire & Humberside Region

send a message of solidarity
in support of our colleagues
in Venezuela



Unite the Union
North East Yorkshire & Humberside Region

Dick Banks
Regional Chair

Karen Reay
Regional Secretary


unite
the UNION

President Maduro Announces Measures to Protect Working People on May Day

In his May Day speech at a large rally in Caracas, President Nicolas Maduro announced the extension of social programmes and benefits to workers and the Venezuelan population in general.

The new measures include a fund to protect and increase the value of workers' social security savings, the extension of social programmes to workplaces and the introduction of free wifi in many public parks and urban spaces.



President Maduro addresses May Day rally

Maduro has also ordered the "comprehensive" roll-out of popular social programmes, which include free health clinics and subsidised food outlets, to workplaces as a means of increasing the cover and reach of the government's welfare policies.

Other new labour initiatives include ensuring that agreements on collective contracts are reached with public and private sector workers. A presidential commission is also being appointed to evaluate the implementation of the labour law and resolve any setbacks or difficulties with the implementation of this legislation.

Citing the recently announced 40% minimum wage increase, which seeks to counter the impact of higher than usual inflation in the country, and the increased inclusion of workers in formal employment, the President argued that the large May Day rally was "the greatest demonstration of what side the majority of the people and the working class is on".

The authors of the pamphlet with Alvaro Sanchez of the Venezuelan Embassy & Carolyn Jones of the IER.



Successful Launch of New Pamphlet on Venezuela's Inspiring Labour Law

The VSC has worked with the Institute of Employment Rights to publish a new pamphlet by VSC Secretary Dr. Francisco Dominguez and Siân Errington of VSC *Women for Venezuela* to outline the advances for workers' rights in Venezuela, with particular attention paid to the 2012 Labour Law, which has been described as one of the most progressive of its kind in the world. Explaining the importance of the publication, an IER spokesperson said, "as we approach the 2nd anniversary of the introduction of the new Venezuelan laws, it is interesting to compare and contrast State attitudes to workers, to unions, to access to justice and to companies who fail to comply with the law." The pamphlet is available to order (see below) and was launched at a packed roundtable of trade unionists at Unite House in May.

THE
INSTITUTE
OF
EMPLOYMENT
RIGHTS

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Please post Bolivarian Venezuela: sustained progress for workers' rights to:



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Address line 1:

Town:

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I enclose a cheque for £5 made out to the 'Institute of Employment Rights' for the special rate for VSC supporters
Return this form to: IER, 4th Floor, Jack Jones House,
1 Islington, Liverpool L3 8EG.
Or order online at www.ier.org.uk

Unite South West Stands in Solidarity with the people of Venezuela



Laurence Faircloth SW Regional Secretary
Kevin Terry SW Regional Chair

Jayne Taylor SW EC Member
Mark Thomas SW EC Member

www.unitetheunion.org



What's Really Been Going On in

Starting in February, a wave of violence has left 42 people dead and hundreds injured in Venezuela. Many misleading reports and images have been recycled in the media, without verification, giving the impression of state-organised violence against peaceful protesters. Here we outline five key points showing what's really been happening, revealing a very different picture.



1. THE LATEST ATTEMPT TO OUST A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

Once again Venezuelans have faced violent and unconstitutional attempts to destabilise the country and oust its elected government.

The protests are political – about overthrowing the government – and follow calls at the beginning of 2014 by extreme right-wing minority leaders in the opposition for ‘The Ousting’ (La Salida) of the elected government by street action. This drive was led by Leopoldo Lopez and Maria Corina Machado, politicians associated with the 2002 coup.

Contrary to some media coverage, the protests are not primarily about the economy, being concentrated in wealthier neighbourhoods – the country's equivalent of Knightsbridge and Chelsea.

Likewise, 88% of Venezuelans have labelled the protests as violent, so it would be misleading to describe the protestors as peaceful.

Left: Dialogue organised by Nicolas Maduro

Below: Chavistas have protested for peace. This banner reads for peace & life



2. THE MAIN SOURCE OF FATALITIES IS OPPOSITION VIOLENCE

The current wave of violence directly followed the call to bring down the government by taking the streets. The government has condemned the small minority of the deaths – four – resulting from opposition supporter clashes with security forces. It has taken tough action including sacking the head of the military police and ensuring the arrest of officers involved.

But to suggest anything but a small proportion of the fatalities are due to state actions is to give a very false picture.

The principal cause of the deaths has been violence from extremists in the opposition. Nine police officers have been killed; at least five innocent civilians have been shot dead whilst trying to clear opposition street barricades; and six have been killed in fatal crashes with these deliberately dangerous barricades. Some have been beheaded after crashing into a barricade with wire placed at head height.

There has also been violence and arson against government institutions, buildings and supporters. This has included attacks on ministry buildings, health clinics, power stations, public transport, buildings associated with government social programmes, offices of left-wing parties and universities. There has also been a violent siege of the state TV station VTV.

Specific examples include someone arrested for putting diesel in the water supply of Merida – a major city. In early April, protesters set the Chacao branch of the Ministry of Housing on fire. There were 1,200 employees working in the building. The fire also endangered 89 children who were in the ministry's crèche. Thankfully, firefighters arrived on time.





Venezuela?



5. VENEZUELA'S GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS CALLED FOR PEACE AND THAT NEEDS TO BE SUPPORTED

From the very outset President Maduro called for a peace conference to ensure differences are resolved within the constitutional order.

Peace talks are now under way. It is welcome that the dominant sections within the opposition are involved in these and polls show 90% back the talks.

But it remains disturbing that the minority elements most closely tied to the violence have so far refused to participate.

This hardcore element – literally a few hundred – continues in attempts to use violence street protest.

It should always be remembered that those who initiated the violence and who now oppose the talks are a small minority in an opposition movement that itself is a minority in the country.

4. THE USA IS PLAYING A DIRECT ROLE – LATIN AMERICA HAS CALLED FOR PEACE

The US has given \$100m to the opposition groups over the past decade. Scaled up to the size of the UK, this would be over \$800m, a clear violation of the democratic principle that it should be Venezuelans themselves who determine their own government.

The United States' official funding of these opposition leaders and its recent interventions into Venezuelan politics, blaming the government for the violence, do not encourage extremists to move towards a process of peace. Neither do calls from the US Senate and Congress for sanctions on Venezuela. Instead they embolden its attempt to oust the elected government.

In contrast, the two main bodies made up of the region's governments – OAS and UNASUR – passed motions expressing solidarity with the Venezuelan government against attempts to oust it and backing its calls for peace.

UNASUR lies behind the current peace talks efforts through a commission led by Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia.

3. THE PROTEST MOVEMENT FOR 'LA SALIDA' DOESN'T HAVE MAJORITY SUPPORT

Current approval ratings place President Maduro on over 50% – higher than opposition levels of support of around 37-40%.

The government won a national set of local elections just six months ago by a margin of 10%. Many have said that this electoral defeat led to the turn to violence by some in the opposition.

It is worth noting the party of main leader of 'La Salida' Leopoldo Lopez won only around 5% of the 335 Mayors elected last December, while the second most prominent leader, Maria Corina Machado, got less than 4% in the right-wing opposition's Presidential primaries of 2012.



Fantastic Conference

In May, over 250 people attended the VSC's national conference entitled *Celebrating Hugo Chávez's Legacy - Defending Venezuela Against US Intervention & Right-Wing Destabilisation*. Guests and speakers included journalists, diplomats from Venezuela, Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador and Nicaragua, MPs, academics, film makers and activists.

The Conference was opened by VSC Secretary Dr. Francisco Dominguez who explained that the recent violent protests in Venezuela "are political" and "have always been about overthrowing the Government."

Continuing on this theme, in the opening plenary, *Guardian* journalist and author Seumas Milne spoke of the continued media distortion of the situation in the country and provided a firsthand insight into his recent trip to Caracas, his interview with President Maduro and the attempts to destabilize Venezuela by extreme right sectors.

Reminding the conference that the right-wing extremists in Venezuela, on the eve of the current violence, said they would set streets alight, he explained how he had witnessed the effects of an opposition arson attack.

He convincingly argued that we were seeing violence from elements of the opposition after they have lost 18 out of 19 referendums and elections - even though elements of the media portray it as democratic - and concluded that the protests (including those he had witnessed) were a "naked and democratic revolt of the rich concentrated in wealthy areas."

He was joined by US writer Mark Weisbrot who outlined why it is so important to debunk lies in media and Labour Member of the Scottish Parliament Neil Findlay who spoke about his experiences as an observer to last year's elections in Venezuela and the country's vibrant, inclusive democracy.

Numerous workshops provided an insight into the current, violent attempts to destabilise the



Jeremy Corbyn addresses closing rally against US intervention & right wing destabilisation

country by extreme right-wing elements, and additional workshops on various aspects of social progress in Venezuela reminded us why our solidarity is so important, confirming CWU General Secretary Billy Hayes' point that the gains of Venezuela "matter to the left and are hated by the right." Or, as *Guardian Comment is Free* contributor, blogger and campaigner Ellie Mae O'Hagan put it, "the reason that the Right really dislike Venezuela in this country, and in the US, is that they can't stand the fact that in that country there are free, democratic and frequent elections, and people keep choosing socialism."

After a full day of insight and discussion the conference ended with a closing rally where the Chargé d'Affaires of the Venezuelan Embassy, Alvaro Sanchez, thanked all the participants for



Conference closing panel against US Intervention & Right Wing Destabilisation in Venezuela



Over 250 people packed ULU throughout the day including to listen to an opening plenary with US writer Mark Weisbrot & others

Bethan Jenkins

Welsh Assembly Member

"Venezuela is an oil rich country. Of course America are going to be looking to Venezuela to destabilise the situation. Look at what happened in Iraq. We are not foolish enough to not understand that's why they want destabilisation in Venezuela."



Fran Perez

United Left of Spain

"Venezuela needs us. The chaos, destabilisation and violence by the Right and the oligarchy are an attempt to illegitimately overthrow Nicolas Maduro. The undemocratic right-wing is attempting to achieve what they couldn't in the December elections by way of violence. With the support of the US government, they are attempting to ensure Maduro can't continue the work of Hugo Chávez."



Expresses Solidarity!

Billy Hayes

CWU General Secretary

"Some forces within the [Venezuelan] opposition have no confidence in their ability to secure a future majority, so they are violently attempting to provoke a coup or an intervention against the elected Government."



Neil Findlay

Member of the Scottish Parliament

"There is a seismic shift [in Latin America] that the corporations and their US allies detest. They detest the loss of control and their role of kingmaker. They hate the fact that the people are in control and not them... the fact that democracy has produced a result they don't like."



Workshops took place throughout the day including this one on tackling racism and neo-colonialism chaired by Zita Holbourne of the PCS

their continued support and highlighted the efforts being made by the government of President Maduro to ensure peace throughout the country. The actor and screenwriter Andy de la Tour spoke of his experience as an

international observer of the 2013 elections in Venezuela, and international guests, Camila Mejia from the union FETSALUD Nicaragua and Fran Perez from the United Left of Spain, gave fascinating insights into solidarity with Venezuela in their countries.

Finally Jeremy Corbyn MP called for continued efforts to build the solidarity movement to ensure Venezuela can be defended internationally.

Attendees left the Conference with the words of Alvaro Sanchez of the Venezuelan Embassy ringing true when he said "it's not just the progress of Venezuela but the progress of the world" that is at stake and that's why our support is so vital.



Actor Andy De La Tour chairs the closing rally

Seumas Milne

Journalist who recently interviewed President Maduro

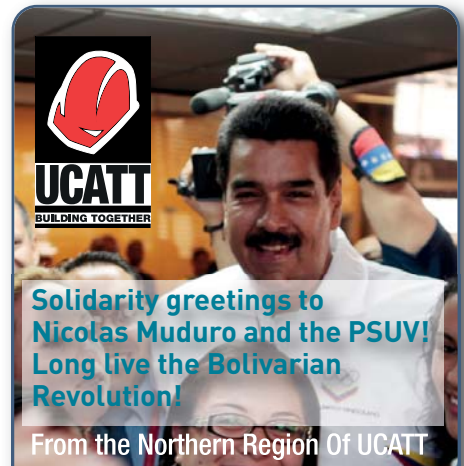
"There's no doubt whatsoever about the scale of US and foreign intervention in Venezuela. The evidence is voluminous, from the time of the 2002 coup to the \$100 million estimated of funding to the Venezuelan opposition in all its forms."



Alicia Castro

Ambassador to the UK from Argentina and formerly Argentina's Ambassador to Venezuela

"Who wins with the violence? Clearly it's not the Government but the opposition... Attacks have been launched against public buildings... intended to sow terror, hatred and social fragmentation."



Denis Doody **Regional Secretary**
Alec Nichol **Regional Council Chair**
Alan Stansfield **Exec. Council Member**

UNISON
the public service union

Wolverhampton UNISON
Local Government Branch
stands with the Bolivarian
Revolution



Lobby Your MP to Oppose US Sanctions!

Hundreds of VSC supporters have written to their MP asking them to add their name to a statement in support of the work of the special Commission of the Latin American regional body UNASUR (Union of South American Nations) for peace and dialogue in Venezuela, and noting the position taken by the Organisation of American States by 29 votes to 3 in its call for "respect for the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of states and its commitment to the protection of democratic institutions and the rule of law" and therefore opposing proposed US sanctions on Venezuela.

Numerous MPs have added their support for Venezuela (see below) due to this campaigning, and now, lobbying your MP against US sanctions has become all the more important with the decision of U.S. House of Representatives to ignore the Latin American Consensus and pass sanctions against Venezuela on May 28. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, headed by a right-wing Florida politician, Marco Rubio, has also voted in favour of the bill.

In contrast, Union of South American Nations (Unasur) foreign ministers and officials signed a statement remarking that the intended sanctions violate the principle of non-intervention in the affairs of other states and hit against the process of dialogue between the Venezuelan government and opposition, stating such sanctions are also "an obstacle" for the Venezuelan people "to overcome their hardships with independence, peace and democracy."

STATEMENT TEXT

"We the undersigned join Latin America's main regional bodies such as the Organisation of American States (by 29 votes to 3) and UNASUR (Union of South American nations) in both condemning the ongoing wave of anti-democratic violence from extreme elements of Venezuela's right-wing opposition in recent weeks, whose declared aim ('La Salida') is the ousting of the elected government, and in supporting the calls of Venezuela's elected President Nicolas Maduro for peace and dialogue."

We agree with the OAS in its call for "respect for the principle of non intervention in the internal affairs of states and its commitment to the defense of democratic institutionalism of the state of law in agreement with the OAS Charter and international law," and therefore disagree with all external interference, including through any sanctions on Venezuela as proposed by some members of the US congress. We urge all parties internationally to support the efforts of UNASUR, through its commission on this issue, in working for peace and dialogue in Venezuela. "

You can lobby your MP with our easy-to-use online tool at www.venezuelasolidarity.co.uk or by writing to your MP c/o the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. If you need to look up who your MP is, please visit www.theyworkforyou.com

GMB Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region

GMB supports **democracy** & social **progress** in Venezuela and the work of the **Venezuela Solidarity** Campaign



Tim Roache REGIONAL SECRETARY Andy Irving REGIONAL PRESIDENT

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UNITE STANDS IN SOLIDARITY

with the social progress and democratic advances of the Venezuelan people

Len McCluskey, General Secretary
Tony Woodhouse, Chair of GEC

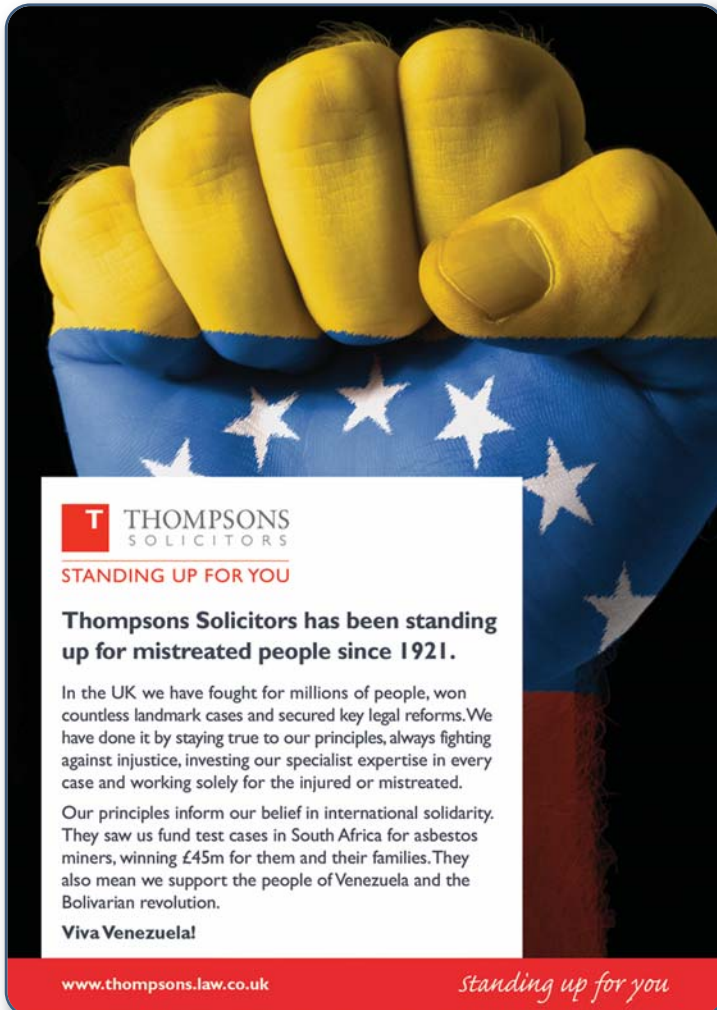
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POLITICAL SIGNATORIES

At the time of going to press, political signatories include:

Dave Anderson MP, William Bain MP, Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, Jim Cunningham MP, Nic Dakin MP, Ian Davidson MP, Mark Durkan MP, Neil Findlay MSP, John Finnie MSP, Lord Anthony Gifford QC, Sheila Gilmore MP, Roger Godsiff MP, Rt. Hon. Peter Hain MP, Kelvin Hopkins MP, George Howarth MP, Glenda Jackson MP, Cathy Jamieson MP, Bethan Jenkins AM (Welsh Assembly Member,) Darren Johnson AM (London Assembly,) Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP, Jean Lambert MEP, Ian Lavery MP, John Leech MP, Alex Lowley MSP, Elfyn Llwyd MP, John McDonnell MP, Siobhan McMahon MSP, Graeme Morrice MP, Grahame Morris MP, Lord Martin O'Neill of Clackmannan, Fiona O'Donnell MP, Jenny Rathbone AM (Welsh Assembly Member,) Linda Riordan MP, RT. Hon. Dame Joan Ruddock MP, John Robertson MP, Rt. Hon. Andrew Smith MP, Elaine Smith MSP, Mark Williams MP, Chris Williamson MP and Mike Wood MP.



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In the UK we have fought for millions of people, won countless landmark cases and secured key legal reforms. We have done it by staying true to our principles, always fighting against injustice, investing our specialist expertise in every case and working solely for the injured or mistreated.

Our principles inform our belief in international solidarity. They saw us fund test cases in South Africa for asbestos miners, winning £45m for them and their families. They also mean we support the people of Venezuela and the Bolivarian revolution.

Viva Venezuela!

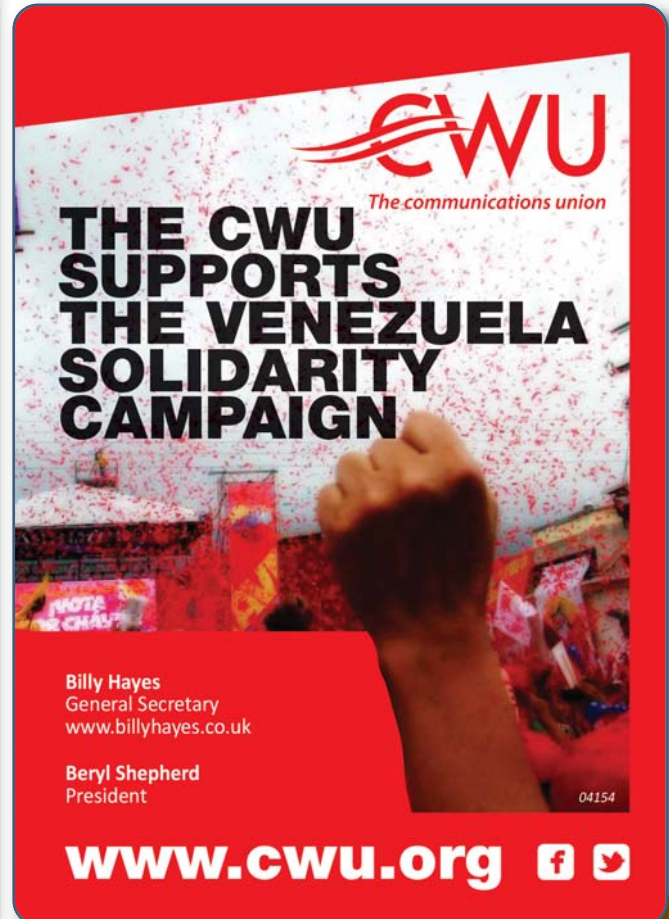
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The PCS stands in solidarity with the people of Venezuela

Mark Serwotka, **General Secretary**
Sue Bond, **International Committee Chair**



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pcs.org.uk



CWU
The communications union

THE CWU SUPPORTS THE VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

Billy Hayes
General Secretary
www.billyhayes.co.uk

Beryl Shepherd
President

www.cwu.org  



viva venezuela!

VSC Emergency Appeal

Twelve years ago the temporarily successful 2002 US-backed coup against Hugo Chávez took place. Now, Venezuela's revolution is again fighting for its life. The former ruling elite are seeking to create the conditions to justify a coup and external intervention, accompanied by an international wave of media misrepresentation, including in Britain. To respond to this emergency VSC has launched an emergency financial appeal for £10,000 - We are loudly saying No More Pinochets in Latin America- No to Extreme Right-Wing Coup Plotters in Venezuela! If 500 people donate £20 we will raise enough to increase our impact at this vital time.

Already, our response to the US war mongers and coup plotters has been internationally praised and extremely effective. Now, reaching our £10,000 target has the potential to significantly increase everything we are able to achieve, and launch a range of new, hard-hitting initiatives, just when we need it the most. So please take a minute to give what you can, to directly fund the work you want to see to defend the amazing legacy of Hugo Chávez.

If 500 people give £20, we will raise enough to ensure we increase our impact at this vital time. We get a lot done with surprisingly little money. We are extremely efficient. But it isn't free. Funding can be a problem for

organisations like us. Please therefore donate what you can today. Regardless of whether or not you're able to donate right now, thank you for everything you do for Venezuela – it is greatly appreciated both here and in Venezuela." – Matt Willgress, VSC National Co-ordinator

- You can donate by cheque made out to 'Venezuela Solidarity Campaign' and marked 'Emergency Appeal' to VSC c/o Unite London and Eastern Region, 33-37 Moreland Street, London, EC1V 8BB.

Venezuela Solidarity Campaign Emergency Appeal

Join the VSC

- If you join VSC online at: www.venezuelasolidarity.co.uk for only £18 you receive a free DVD of Oliver Stone's *South of the Border*. You can also join by cheque for £18 (£9 unwaged) to Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, c/o PO Box 56210, London N4 4XH

Standing shoulder to shoulder with the Venezuelan people in defence of Workers' Rights, progress and peace



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Regional Chair

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